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### Intergenerational

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have tried to hide the fact that they read poorly, so admitting their poor reading skills to their child was difficult. One must be willing to follow the needs of the adult student in planning a program. One may be able to change models later, but initially, the teacher should probably allow the students to make the decision concerning the model with which they are most comfortable.

### Conclusions

The teachers involved in this project have been very excited and pleased with the accomplishments of the parents, who have shown changes in attitude as well as achievement. However, getting started was not easy. Very few of the teachers had past experience working with adults. Many had little or no experience with computers. Most of them were very hesitant to attempt the task of recruiting parents to work in the program.

Aware of these problems, the Institute offered workshops to all of the teachers, which included help in recruitment. Most of the workshop time, however, was spent in "hands-on" experience with the courseware. The sessions were well attended and highly valued by the teachers. Many of the teachers stated that use of computer courseware should always involve such sessions.

Something else important has happened. Participating parents are beginning to bring their friends to the program. Although most of the test sites now serve only one, two, or three parents, new parents have been identified who want to begin working with the courseware as soon as possible. A grassroots parent network seems to be forming to combat one of the continuing difficulties faced by many teachers—that of recruiting parents who cannot read and are often fearful and embarrassed to admit this. It appears that the recruitment problem will be reduced as the program becomes better known in the community.

The intergenerational aspects of literacy have often been cited. Children of parents who have low-level literacy skills have numerous educational and emotional disadvantages. One observation by researchers, when describing children who do well in school, is that these children have parents who read to them. Though this seems such a simple activity, it has far-reaching effects. One of the most important results of such an intergenerational project was described by one of the parents when she said: "I never read to my kid. I'm not quite ready yet. But, now, I think I'll try it real soon." AAACE

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